

Year 11 and Sixth Form Students Engage in Political Hustings Ahead of Senedd Elections

Chepstow School will host a Political Hustings event on Thursday 30th April 2026, offering Sixth Form and Year 11 students an opportunity to engage directly with political representatives ahead of the upcoming Senedd elections in the Sir Fynwy Torfaen Constituency.

Taking place from 10:00am to midday at the school, the event will bring together more than 100 students aged 16-18, many of whom are preparing to vote for the first time.

The Hustings will provide a platform for open and balanced discussion on the key issues shaping young people's futures. As a strictly non-partisan event, it is designed to encourage informed debate, critical thinking, and active participation in the democratic process.

Students will have the opportunity to hear a range of perspectives and pose their own questions, helping to build confidence and understanding as they approach their first experience at the ballot box.

The following candidates are confirmed to attend and will represent their respective parties:

- Matthew Jones - Plaid Cymru
- Ian Chandler - The Green Party
- Brad Williams - Gwlad
- Anthony Hunt - Welsh Labour
- Laura Anne Jones - Reform Party in Wales
- Peter Fox - The Conservative and Unionist
- Kevin Wilkins - Welsh Liberal Democrats
- Owen Lewis - Independent Candidate
- Welsh Pool - Independent Candidate

- Emma Meredith - The Heritage Party tbc

The event will begin with short opening statements from each candidate, followed by moderated questions and a student-led Q&A session, and will conclude with closing remarks. Proceedings will be chaired by the school's Chair of Governors, Keith Dunn OBE.

In addition to student participation, members of the media are invited to attend, underlining the importance of youth engagement in democratic processes. The school will also welcome the Communications and Engagement Officer from the Electoral Commission (Wales Office), along with members of the Governing Body.

Kelly Waythe, Headteacher at Chepstow School, said:

“The Hustings will be a valuable opportunity for our students to hear directly from those involved in shaping policy in Wales. We are delighted to host such a diverse range of political voices and look forward to a lively, respectful, and informative exchange.”

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